

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A cover for the rear storage compartment of a vehicle, the cover comprised of at least two panels comprised of a thin rigid casing attached to a plurality of structural members, wherein the cover is of sufficient strength to support a significant top load, and is removably mounted directly onto the bedrails of the storage compartment.
2. The cover of claim 1, wherein the thin rigid casing is selected from the group consisting of metals, polymers, fiberglass, and resin fiber combinations.
3. The cover of claim 2, wherein the thin rigid casing is aluminum.
4. The cover of claim 3, wherein the structural members are at least partially enclosed by the thin rigid casing.
5. The cover of claim 3, wherein the structural members are substantially horizontally disposed and in substantially perpendicular orientation with the bedrails of the storage compartment.
6. The cover of claim 5, wherein at least one panel is substantially secured directly to the bedrails of the rear storage compartment by removable attachment means.
7. The cover of claim 6, wherein the removable attachment means are selected from the group consisting of C-clamps, vices, truck clamps, adhesives, tie-downs, bolts, and screws.
8. The cover of claim 7, wherein at least one other panel is hingedly attached to the substantially secured panel by hinge means.
9. The cover of claim 8, wherein the hinge means is comprised of at least one slip joint hinge.
10. The cover of claim 9, further comprising means to render the cover substantially water resistant when closed.
11. The cover of claim 10, wherein the cover further comprises gutter means for channeling water run off as the at least one other panel is opened.
12. The cover of claim 9, further comprising locking means for locking the at least one other panel.

13. The cover of claim 12, wherein the locking means are selected from the group consisting of T-handle locks, keyed locks, slam latches, push button locks, and paddle locks.
14. The cover of claim 12, further comprising support means attached to the substantially secured panel and attached to the at least one other panel for maintaining the at least one other panel in an open position.
15. The cover of claim 14, wherein the support means are selected from the group consisting of gas springs, prop rods, pneumatic canisters, spring hinges, and springs.
16. The cover of claim 15, wherein at least one panel contains an aperture of sufficient size to permit mounting of a toolbox therethrough.
17. The cover of claim 12, wherein the cover further comprises a ladder rack, the ladder rack comprised of a front rack portion and a rear rack portion, the front rack portion and rear rack portion each having a horizontal rail supported by at least two vertical rails, the vertical rails adapted for removable mounting to the bedrails of the storage compartment.
18. The cover of claim 17, wherein the front rack portion comprises cab guard, the cab guard hingedly attached to the horizontal rail portion of the cab guard.
19. The cover of claim 18, wherein the front rack portion further comprises travel stop and locking means for securing the cab guard in a desired position.
20. The cover of claim 12, wherein at least one panel comprises a raised cab guard portion.